



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN
Commissioner

Memorandum:

TO: Senator Bartolomeo
Representative Butler
Members of the Housing Committee

FROM: Commissioner Patricia Rehmer, DMHAS

DATE: March 4, 2014

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 364

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Butler, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee: thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SB 364 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INITIATIVE STATUTE

DMHAS fully supports this proposal before you today. This bill adds an additional two agencies to Connecticut's nationally recognized Interagency Collaborative. In addition, it simplifies the eligibility criteria for homeless individuals with disabilities that are eligible for supportive housing. Supportive Housing is an evidence based practice shown to reliably solve homelessness for those individuals that receive this intervention. Expanding state agency support and clarifying eligibility criteria only strengthens Connecticut's resolve to address the issue of homelessness in the State as well as creating an environment in which additional support and new ideas are brought to the program. Thank you for the opportunity to present this to testimony